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BOOK REVIEWS.

AMERICAN AND ENGLISH DECISIONS ON EQUITY. With Notes referring to the Principal Matters. Annotated by ARDEMUS STEWART. First Series, Volumes II. Philadelphia: M. Murphy. 1896.

This is the first volume of this series edited by Mr. Stewart, and he has performed his work in a very creditable manner. The cases are selected with discrimination, and edited with care. The notes are full, and add to the practical utility of the volume. Among the matters treated of is the question as to whether the right of privacy dies with the person, raised by the New York case of *Schuyler v. Curtis*. There is an excellent note to *Th re Debs*, reported also in a former volume, which, together with the valuable notes to other cases reported, makes the volume on the whole worthy of distinct commendation. R. R. F.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE. By ARTHUR P. WILL, of the Chicago Bar. Philadelphia: T. & J. W. Johnson & Co. 1896.

This work is a departure from the usual course of book-making in that it deals with circumstantial evidence alone and that it is essentially a case treatment. The earlier pages of the volume are devoted to general statements in respect to evidence; this part though more or less comprehensive, is briefly put.

The subject proper is one which is perhaps insufficient in scope to warrant a work to itself; yet since the attempt has been made, we might wish that that it had been done in a different manner. The chapters consist of extracts taken from opinions in cases, perhaps between three and four thousand in number. These statements are what may be called isolated paragraphs, rarely lengthy, and seldom exhaustive. The volume contains neither a general treatment of the subject of circumstantial evidence nor a comprehensive collection of cases. Therefore it can scarcely be considered a standard work.

On the other hand it has features which are valuable and which make it an interesting and instructive book to be read. Besides the general introductions to the chapters and the subsequent case extracts, there are analyses of about a dozen cases illustrative of criminal poisoning and force of circumstantial evidence. After a reading of the volume one feels that the occupation has been pleasant and profitable, yet the judgment will more than probably be passed that the work is not an authority.

It is noticed that on page 221 the statement is set out that a